

Remarks

Prior to entry of this Amendment, claims 1-12 are pending. By the Amendment herewith, independent claim 1 is amended to specify that the fuel comprises hydrogen. Support for this amendment exists in the specification at, for example, page 3, paragraphs 2-4. This claim and dependent claims 6-7 are further amended to include a data interface, as supported by the specification at page 6, paragraph 3.

New dependent claims 22-25 also are added by this Amendment. Support for these claims exists in the specification at page 6, paragraphs 4-5. No new matter is introduced into the application as a result of these new claims. Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-12 and 22-25 are pending. Of those claims, claim 1 is independent.

Prior to addressing the outstanding Office Action, it is noted that a Replacement Sheet 1/1 is submitted with this Amendment to correct a typographical error noted in Figures 1-2. In particular, the reference numeral "132" for the detector has been corrected to - 134 -. Page 5 of the specification is similarly corrected as reference numeral 132 refers to the fuel transfer mechanism and not the detector. Page 3 of the specification also is amended to improve upon the grammar. Lastly, the Abstract is amended to delete "Fig. 1" listed after the text. No new matter is introduced into the application in view of the foregoing amendments.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 5-10 are rejected under 35 USC Section 102(e) as being anticipated by Pratt et al. (US Patent Publication 2003/0194589, hereinafter "Pratt"). Lastly, claims 3-4 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 USC Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pratt et al. in view of Hockaday (US Patent No. 6,326,097, hereinafter "Hockaday").

The foregoing rejections are respectfully disagreed with, and are traversed below.

Embodiments of the invention, as set forth in independent claim 1, are directed to a fuel supply device comprising a data interface configured to receive data from a mobile electronic device; a fuel reservoir for storing fuel comprising hydrogen; a fuel interface for connection with the mobile electronic device; and a transfer mechanism for transferring fuel comprising

hydrogen from the reservoir to the fuel interface and into the connected mobile electronic device in dependence upon the data received from the mobile electronic device.

The primary reference cited by the Patent Office, Pratt, discloses a fuel cell power source for providing power to a load device (page 2, paragraph 0016). The fuel cell power source includes a fuel storage container, which serves as a fuel source, a fuel storage container controller for controlling the fuel storage container, a fuel cell system, an information storage device, and a control means that controls the operation of other components in the fuel cell power source. The control means may query the coupled load device for information and store it in the information storage device (page 2, paragraph 0018). The control means also computes the net power loading requirements of the load device (page 3, paragraph 0019) by combining and matching the dynamic load requirements of the load device with the historic usage pattern of the specified device user. The control means continues to adjust the operating point of the fuel cell system, therefore controlling the voltage and current output of the fuel cells contained within the fuel cell system (page 3, paragraph 0023). Thus, electrical power is transferred between the fuel cell power source and the load device.

In contrast to Applicant's independent claim 1, Pratt does not disclose the transfer of "fuel comprising hydrogen" to a mobile electronic device, but instead discloses the transfer of electrical power into the load device. Pratt does not disclose providing the fuel of the fuel cell power source to the load device.

Pratt relates to the control of the efficiency of the transfer of electrical power to a load device. This reference discloses fuel cells as a source of electrical power, which is used contemporaneously by the load device. The load device does not therefore store the electrical power, but has varying power demands, which are met by the fuel cell power source.

In contrast, Applicant's independent claim 1 relates to the supply of fuel comprising hydrogen for storage in a mobile electronic device, as noted above. The fuel comprising hydrogen may be used in the electronic device to provide electrical power. There is no motivation or reason to adapt the teachings of Pratt to arrive at Applicant's claim 1 because, for example, Pratt teaches the generation of electrical power at one device and the intelligent transfer of electrical power to another device, whereas Applicant's embodiments are directed to the transfer of hydrogen fuel from one device to another device so that the other device

may generate electricity. Pratt does not teach the transfer of fuel comprising hydrogen to a load device.

As the above anticipation rejection based upon Pratt was the only art rejection of Applicant's sole independent claim, this claim is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, remaining dependent claims 2-12 and 22-25 also are believed to be patentable at least in view of their dependency from an allowable independent claim.

For completion, it is noted that Applicant's dependent claims 3-4 and 11-12 were rejected as being obvious over Pratt in view of Hockaday. It is respectfully asserted that the cited references, whether viewed alone or in any combination, do not disclose or suggest Applicant's claims. Nor is there any reason to combine and modify the teachings of these references in an attempt to arrive at the subject claims. For example, Hockaday was cited as allegedly disclosing a user refillable or user replaceable fuel reservoir, as well as disclosing a supporting stand (Action, page 4). It is respectfully asserted that even if there was sufficient motivation or reason to combine the teachings of Pratt and Hockaday (and Applicant does not admit that such reason or motivation exists), the subject claims would still not be disclosed or suggested, as none of the cited references disclose or suggest the afore-described claimed embodiments including, for example, the transfer of fuel comprising hydrogen to a mobile electronic device. Nor is there any reason to modify the teachings of the references in an attempt to arrive at the subject claims.

All issues having been addressed, the subject application is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding objection and rejections. A favorable consideration that results in the allowance of all of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner have any questions, a call to the undersigned would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted:


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Date

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Attachment: Replacement Sheet 1/1

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July 1, 2008
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